PROCLAMATION

OF

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA

SRI KRISHNARAJENDRA WADIYAR BAHADUR IV OF MYSORE,

THIS THIRD DAY OF ASWIJA BAHULA OF THE RUDHIRODGARI SAMVATSARA
BEING THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX
OF THE SALIVAHANA ERA,
CORRESPONDING TO
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF OCTOBER
ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE.

WHEREAS it has been MY constant and earnest desire to provide for the increasing association of MY people with MY Government in the administration of the State, and

WHEREAS the various measures which, in accordance with this desire, I have taken from time to time have met with a gratifying response from the people and from their chosen representatives, and

WHEREAS MY resolve to take further substantial steps in the same direction has, by MY command, been announced by MY Dewan,

I hereby ordain as follows:—

1. The Representative Assembly, which was established forty-two years ago, by command of MY beloved Father, HIS HIGHNESS SRI CHAMA-RAJENDRA WADIYAR BAHADUR, of revered memory, shall henceforth be placed on a statutory basis with enlarged functions. The law relating to the constitution and functions of the Representative Assembly is now promulgated by ME as Regulation No. XVIII of 1923. The Assembly will have the privilege of being consulted on all proposals for the levy of new taxes and also, except in cases of urgency, on the general principles of all measures of legislation within the cognisance of the Legislative Council. Subject to the exceptions specified in the Regulation, it will also have the right of passing resolutions on matters relating to public administration, and on the general principles and policy underlying the annual State Budget.

2. The Assembly will consist normally of two hundred and fifty members, power being reserved to MY Government to increase the number up to a maximum of two hundred and seventy-five for the purpose of removing inequalities, if any, of representation, and in order to provide for the representation of any new interests and constituencies that may develop in future. In determining the composition of the Assembly from time to time, provision will be made for the adequate representation, by nomination or otherwise, of special interests and minorities.

3. The Legislative Council which was established sixteen years ago under Regulation III of 1907 promulgated by ME will be enlarged and its constitution revised so as to increase the elected element, and ensure a statutory non-official majority. Provision will be made for the representation of special interests and of minorities. The Council will henceforth have the power of voting on the annual State Budget by major heads, in respect of all items of expenditure, save those specially excluded from its cognisance. Power will, however, be reserved to MY Government to restore a provision wholly or partly disallowed by the Council, if they consider such restoration necessary for the carrying on of any department, or for the discharge of Government's responsibility, and also to authorise, in cases of emergency, such expenditure as may be necessary for the safety and tranquillity of the State, notwithstanding the absence of provision therefor in the budget. The present law relating to the Legislative Council will be repealed and replaced by a new Regulation now promulgated by ME as Regulation No. XIX of 1923, providing adequately for the exercise by the Legislative Council of the larger powers with which I have now decided to invest it.

4. In addition to and simultaneously with the grant of enlarged powers and privileges to the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council, I deem it necessary to widen and increase the electorates for these bodies. Accordingly, the representatives of the urban as well as the rural constituencies in the Legislative Council will be returned by direct election, and as regards elections to the Representative Assembly, the existing property qualifications will be reduced by one-half. The franchise will, in both cases, be extended to all persons paying income-tax. The franchise will also be extended to women possessing the qualifications prescribed for voters.

5. In order to ensure that the Representative Assembly may truly voice the wishes and sentiments of MY people, all members of the Assembly except those representing special interests and minorities will be returned by direct election.

6. With a view to enable the representatives of the people to maintain close touch with, and influence, the everyday administration of the State, Standing Committees consisting of such number of members as may be prescribed, who will be elected by the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council, will be formed to help MY Government in an advisory capacity.

7. The Economic Development Boards dealing with the subjects of Education, Agriculture and Industries and Commerce will be continued in close relationship with the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council and reconstituted on the lines which I have approved and which will be duly notified by MY Government.

8. It is MY desire that the constitution, powers and functions of Municipal Councils, District and Taluk Boards and Village Panchayets should be revised so as to give them the largest possible measure of responsibility and autonomy in the administration of local affairs.

9. MY Government will have power to make rules in regard to all matters of detail not provided for in this Proclamation or in the Representative Assembly Regulation or in the Legislative Council Regulation and to add to, amend, vary or rescind the same, whenever necessary or expedient, but not so as to curtail in any manner the powers and privileges hereby granted.

10. MY Government will take immediate steps to give effect to this Proclamation and adopt such measures as may become necessary from time to time to carry out MY intentions. I now invite MY people to utilise the larger opportunities of public service and usefulness to the State which I am now conferring upon them, and I have every confidence that they will respond to MY call with the same loyalty and sense of responsibility as in the past and in a spirit of mutual toleration and good-will. It is MY earnest prayer that these measures now inaugurated may, under Divine guidance, promote the happiness and prosperity, and ensure the progress, of all classes of MY subjects.

Seal.

KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR.